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Cover Page Footnote

Joe Neal and Jay Schneider (Hobbs State Park – Conservation Area) kept track of the bird. Steve Cardiff provided information on Louisiana records, as did Bill Rowe for Missouri, and Scott Somershoe for Tennessee.

Second record of Gray-headed Junco (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*) in Arkansas

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Running title: Gray-headed Junco in Arkansas

Once considered a separate species, the Gray-headed Junco (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*) is now part of the *caniceps* group within the species Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). It is primarily a bird associated with the Rocky Mountains (Nolan *et al.* 2002), but single birds are occasionally found east of the Rocky Mountains (see below).

The first record of Gray-headed Junco in Arkansas occurred in late February and early March of 1963 at a feeder in Little Rock (Pulaski County) (James 1964). This bird had a pink upper mandible (Figure 1), confirming it was a Gray-headed Junco and not the closely related Red-backed Junco (*J. h. dorsalis*), which has a dark upper mandible and is thought to be relatively sedentary.

The second record for Arkansas occurred on 28 February 2018 when Garrett photographed a Gray-headed Junco at the bird feeders at Hobbs State Park – Conservation Area, east of Rogers (Benton County). The bird was seen and photographed by many (Figure 2) and was last observed at the bird feeders on 14 March.

First documented in western Kansas in late April of 1966 (Rising 1966), there have been several more records for that state (Thompson and Ely 1992). Similarly, most records in Oklahoma have been in the western panhandle with a few records in eastern Oklahoma (Van Els *et al.* 2009). The first Gray-headed Junco in Missouri spent the winter from early December 2000 to April 2001 (Rowe 2002) and there has been a second record during 13-18 February 2011 (Rowe 2012). Louisiana has had 2 specimens collected, one on 3 February 1957 and one on 4 July 1990. There are also eight records of single birds from Louisiana on 19 December 1966, 12 January 1990, and 13-14 October 1990 (S. W. Cardiff, *pers. comm.*) and 2-3 March 2000 (Dittman and Cardiff 2003). There is one record from Tennessee on 24 May 1982 (Anderson 1984).

Further north in the Great Plains, Gray-headed Juncos occasionally occur in states like Nebraska (Svingen and Martin 2005) and there are 3 recent records for single birds in Ontario in May (Holden 2014).



Figure 1. The first Gray-headed Junco found in Arkansas on 22 February 1963 at a feeder in Little Rock. It was last seen on 2 March 1963. Picture from Arkansas Audubon Society archives.



Figure 2. Gray-headed Junco found at Hobbs State Park – Conservation Area on 1 March 2018. It was last observed on 14 March. Photograph by Michael Linz.

Most of these reports would suggest that many birds are strays during spring migration. The report of a flock Gray-headed Junco in Louisiana of at least 8 birds on 1 November 1990 is unprecedented (S. W. Cardiff, *pers. comm.*).

Acknowledgments

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